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The National Intelligence Survey is a systematic and continuous interdepartmental program which one of the first National Security Council directives established in 1948 to provide the Government with coordinated intelligence on the basic and relatively unchanging characteristics of foreign countries world-wide. NSCID #3 laid on the Program as a consequence of World War II experience with critical gaps, often disagreement, and duplicative effort in materials produced by various government components on an un-coordinated basis. USIB recently re-examined and re-affirmed the NIS mission.

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The published NIS on each foreign country or area is a digest which is comprehensive in scope and generally of the depth of detail appropriate for high-level policy and planning purposes (although, for example, circumstances at the time of the 1958 Lebanon landings made NIS a principal source for initial operational requirements for the forces in the Mediterranean). The topics covered are Military Geography, Transportation & Telecommunications, Sociological, Political, Economic, Scientific, and Armed Forces. Classification is Confidential or above.

The one-volume General Survey (formerly Chapter I - Brief) is the primary NIS unit published on an area. This may be the entire NIS coverage for one of the smaller countries. For larger countries the General Survey is selectively supplemented by other NIS units when appropriate to provide the more extensive coverage required by such topics as Coasts & Landing Beaches, Ports & Naval Facilities, Characteristics of the People, and Health & Sanitation. With initial world coverage essentially completed, NIS emphasis is now on issuance of updated revisions as rapidly as permitted by capabilities. Scheduled FY 1965 production will put General Survey updating for principal countries on a 2 to 3 year cycle.

The NIS is produced on a programmed basis rather than being crisis or problem oriented. Through fore-handed collection and production its mission is to be available in published form -- in Washington, outside Washington, and among the Commands

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and foreign posts -- when need arises. The mission of the NIS, rather than being to provide highly current intelligence which is the field of others, is to provide on-hand basic information which is widely and economically used to assist in the production of more transitory, or estimative, or special-purpose intelligence.

Production of NIS utilizes the specialized know-how and production capabilities of Government components which include not only those in the Intelligence Community and the Services but such others as Agriculture, Commerce, H&M, Interior, and Labor. Some 40 individual components are involved in production of NIS topics allocated according to ^{their} specialized fields. The published NIS is the top of a pyramid of detailed information which remains in the hands of producing components and is available for their specialized needs.

The programming and accomplishment of NIS coverage is coordinated by the inter-agency NIS Committee, a USIB committee whose members represent both the requirements and production capabilities of the agencies. From the outset the DCI and CIA have been responsible for management of the Program and publication of the NIS, and a number of CIA components contribute portions of the content. The working-level focal point in the Program is CIA's Office of Basic Intelligence, ^{where} a staff of some 75 experienced professionals performs the coordinative and final review and processing of the materials from the wide range of contributing agencies.

More than 6,500 NIS units have been published to date, an increasing proportion being in maintenance revisions. More than 2,800,000 copies of these various units have been published. In addition to the dissemination of NIS units, stocks are maintained and are heavily drawn on when crises emerge. In addition to these stocks and complete NIS held by a number of users, master copies of all printed NIS content and supporting maps and other graphic materials are held in protected storage for emergency reprinting at a remote plant which is under contingency contract.

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